WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dispenser for storing and dispensing small items, comprising:

a base container having an a hollow space for storing items to be dispensed, and having an opening connected to the hollow space;

a cover sized to fit over the opening of the base container, said cover having a port through which items stored in the base container can be dispensed, and at least one raised boss on an inside surface of the cover;

means for attaching the cover over the opening of the base container;

a wheel rotationally mounted under the cover, said wheel having a shaft and at least three fins radially extending from the shaft and spaced from each other around the shaft, said wheel being mounted under the cover such that the shaft and the fins of the wheel can rotate under the cover and carry an item stored within the base container to the cover port, said rotating fins being aligned to contact and pass over the raised boss on the inside surface of the cover each time the wheel is rotated 360 degrees;

an actuator for manually rotating the wheel under the cover, said actuator being accessible from outside of the dispenser;

said cover and wheel fins being made of plastic resin.

2. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the cover port has a first edge under which the wheel fins first pass each time one of the fins is rotated past the cover port and a second edge under which the wheel fins last pass each time one of the fins is rotated past the cover port, and wherein the cover includes a first raised boss on an inside surface of the cover proximate the first port edge and a second raised boss on an inside surface of the cover proximate the second port edge, said wheel being mounted

under the cover such that the fins of the wheel contact and pass over the first and second raised bosses on the inside surface of the cover each time the wheel is rotated 360 degrees.

3. The dispenser of claim 2, wherein said cover has opposite side walls and the inside surface of each of said side walls has a raised ridge, and wherein the wheel includes opposite corresponding sides that each include concave portions that are complimentary to the raised ridges on the opposite side walls of the cover, such that the wheel can be snapped into and held by the cover while still being rotatable within the cover.

4. The dispenser of claim 3, wherein the shaft of the wheel includes first and second opposite ends that each have a hub, and wherein the side walls of the cover each include a bearing on which the shaft hubs are mountable for rotation.

5. The dispenser of claim 4, wherein each side wall of the cover includes an indented portion that acts as a bearing for a hub of the shaft of the wheel.

6. The dispenser of claim 5, wherein the base container includes opposite side walls that are aligned with opposite side wall of the cover, and wherein each of the side walls of the base container includes an indented portion that acts as a portion of the bearing for a hub of the shaft of the wheel.

7. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the wheel includes at least five fins radially extending from the shaft and spaced from each other around the shaft.

8. The dispenser of claim 2, wherein the wheel includes six to ten fins radially extending from the shaft, said fins being substantially equally spaced from each other around the shaft.

9. The dispenser of claim 8, wherein each of the fins has an end edge that is substantially parallel to the axis of the shaft and is on the edge of the fin furthest from the shaft, and wherein the end edges of adjacent fins are spaced from each other by a distance substantially equal to the distance between the first and second edges of the cover port.

10. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the actuator for manually rotating the wheel under the cover comprises a disc axially mounted on the shaft, said disc having an outer edge that projects through a slot in said cover, said disc engaging the wheel shaft such that manually moving the edge of said disc rotates the fins on the wheel.

11. The dispenser of claim 10 wherein the disc axially mounted on the shaft is located entirely outside of said cover.

12. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the cover includes at least two flexible arms extending from the cover on opposite sides of the wheel rotationally mounted under the cover.

13. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the cover and the fins of the wheel are comprised of at least 80% by weight of polymer from the group of acetal, polyamide, polyester, polycarbonate, polyolefin and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene polymer and copolymer resins and blends thereof.

14. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein the cover and the fins of the wheel are comprised of at least 80% by weight of acetal polymer resin.

15. The dispenser of claim 10, wherein the wheel is comprised of at least two polymer or copolymer resins,

wherein the fins of the wheel are comprised of at least 80% by weight of a rigid plastic selected from the group of acetal, polyamide, polyester, polycarbonate, and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene polymer and copolymer resins, and wherein the outer edge of the disc is comprised of a softer and more flexible polymer or copolymer resin.

16. The dispenser of claim 15, wherein the outer edge of the disc is comprised of at least 80% by weight of a thermoplastic copolyether ester.

17. The dispenser of claim 1, wherein the means for attaching the cover over the opening of the base container is selected from the group of adhesives, tapes, and mechanical interlocking elements.